

# Wyre Forest Local Group

Summer 2020



Worcestershire  
Wildlife Trust

## Wildlife On My Doorstep

I hope that you are all keeping well and safe and have been enjoying the wildlife around you. To help overcome the difficulties of producing our normal newsletter during the pandemic restrictions, our committee have given snapshots of some of their experiences and observations; I hope that you find their contributions interesting.

David



© Pauline Dyson

Even mallard on Captain's  
Pool socially distanced!



Orange tip © Jim Preston

### Nature in our garden

We have never had so much blossom on the holly tree. It fell like snow but not before being visited by holly blue butterflies. There were other early butterflies too but it began with a single peacock that had been hibernating in the garage. More were soon spotted in the garden feeding on the spring flowers along with a few early bumblebees, a flurry of small tortoiseshells and a couple of commas. As these numbers waned they were replaced by orange tips and the ubiquitous whites, which have been attracted to the purple sprouting broccoli.



Holly blue © Jim Preston



Blue tit © Jim Preston

Great tits and blue tits showed interest in our nest boxes this year but only blue tits went on to occupy a box close to our back door. We were concerned that their efforts may have come to nothing but today both parents were entering and leaving the box frequently, taking in morsels collected from shrubs in the garden and giving us renewed hope that eggs have successfully hatched. With a bit of luck, chicks will fledge before soon.

We have also been delighted to see the return of a pair of goldfinches that come to the garden to feed on the niger seed and also the starlings that visit us to use the birdbath. The latter arrive in small flocks and queue patiently to begin with to wait their turn but then, almost always, succumb to a breakdown of discipline and all jump in together. Watching them splash around enthusiastically is a favourite sight. They leave suddenly, as one, and we go out to fill up the birdbath ready for the next time.



Starling © Jim Preston

There are no swallows or house martins flying over the garden yet and we have not heard a cuckoo but, as they do every year, the larks are singing above the fields of spring barley, which is thriving on the other side of our garden fence.

It is a reminder that while we humans are having to adapt to new routines, for most of our wildlife it is business as usual!

Elaine Joyce

# Wildlife On Our Doorstep

## My lockdown

I have been on the lookout for birds from the garden and also our two fields. So far I have seen 38 species.



I have also done a daily walk over the fields towards Harvington Hall and this yielded five additions to my list. Highlights were the first cuckoo and common whitethroat on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, although the cuckoo was first heard in Chaddesley on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Others seen or heard were several yellowhammers and a beautiful view of migrating wheatear and reed bunting. Whitethroats seem to be here in greater numbers this year or am I just being more observant?

*Mervyn Needham*

## Mandarin at Caunsall

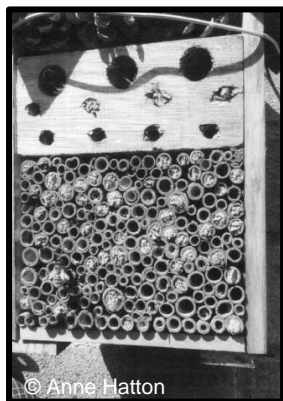
Lockdown has made me truly grateful to be living where we do. Plenty of wildlife to enjoy, with time to stand and stare! All days have highlights but here are of my three favourites:

- 1 A big bright brimstone fluttering near Puxton Marsh at the beginning of April showed me the colour of sunny days to follow.
- 2 My first swallow and martin sighting at the end of April. They flew, swooped and magically circled around me whilst they refuelled.
- 3 First day of May, cycling along the canal at Caunsall, spotted a colourful mandarin (who thought that he was a mallard)!

*Jean Maffie*

## In my garden

There is so much to watch in my garden. There are many different butterflies and the birds are working hard to feed their fledglings. The bumblebees are busy looking for nest sites - I had to move my garden bench because it was on a flight path!



I have a bug hotel on a sunny wall that is proving very entertaining. There are tiny female solitary bees going in and out of the tubes. They seem to be quite particular and spend quite some time choosing the right one to lay their eggs in. When finished, they each close the end

I am only just learning about these fascinating creatures but I can recommend getting a bee hotel – both for the bees and for yourself.

*Rosemary Hatton*

## Walks on our doorstep

Just across the road is a local nature reserve that has proved to be an uplifting place in which to walk and soak up the sounds and scents of the natural world. The Hoo Brook runs through sun-dappled trees and in late April we enjoyed a carpet of bluebells. In early May we walked up a nearby narrow path that runs down to Stanklyn Lane., and recorded 22 species of wildflowers! Another local footpath took us close to the railway viaduct where unexpectedly we came across a large patch of honeysuckle in full bloom.

Venturing further afield we walked to the wildlife haven of Fenny Rough near Stone. We went down into a deep cleft in a stretch of woodland between fields. At the bottom we crossed the stream to climb up the bluebell-lined path to emerge into the sunshine and a wonderful display of red and white campion.



*David and Ruth Howell*

*Many thanks to all our contributors  
from your editors, Ruth & David Howell*

## Autumn 2020 possible talks and walks

Please check [www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on) for up to date information or call:

**Talks :** David Howell 01562 741891

**Walks:** Glyn Walters 01562 637556

### Talks

September 3<sup>rd</sup> The life of a wildlife ranger  
October 1<sup>st</sup> Fungi  
November 5<sup>th</sup> The wildlife of a local farm  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> Members A.G. M and social

### Walks

September 13<sup>th</sup> Eyemore and Trimpley woods  
October 11<sup>th</sup> Bournheath and Fairfield  
November 15<sup>th</sup> Around Chaddesley Corbett  
December 13<sup>th</sup> Wonders of Walton Hill